

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-05 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4039

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, UR, XF

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS SILENT ON SOVIET ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

REF WARSAW 1705

1. WE NOTE THAT IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST MISSION AND SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONVENTION, THE MAIN POLISH DAILIES HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE SOVIET UNION. THE CATHOLIC PAX DAILY, SLOWO POWSZECHNE, DOES REFER TO THE SOVIET UNION IN A MARCH 26 EDITORIAL ON THE END OF THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MISSION OF MEDIATION, BUT ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF POINTING OUT THAT IT CONSISTENTLY HAS HELD THAT THE PROBLEM IS TOO COMPLICATED TO BE SETTLED IN OTHER THAN A MULTILATERAL FORUM, SUCH AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HOWEVER,
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EVEN SLOWO POSZECHNE SAYS NOTHING ABOUT A SOVIET ROLE IN

CONVENING THE CONFERENCE OR IN ANY OTHER CAPACITY AS A MEDIATOR
IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

2. COMMENT: THIS SUGGESTS TO US THE LACK SO FAR OF PRESS
GUIDANCE ON THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE DELICATE NEW SITUATION.
WE FIND POLISH JOURNALISTS MAKING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS
IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT OFFICIAL AXES
TO GRIND. ALTHOUGH EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY OF RECONVENING
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DIS-
CUSSED THE SUBJECT APPEAR AGREED THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE EASY
TO DO SO IN THE FACE OF POSSIBLE ISRAELI AND PLO OPPOSITION.
THEY ADD THAT EVEN IF IT IS CONVENED IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO
ACHIEVE ANYTHING AT GENEVA BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDES OF ISRAEL,
THE PLO, AND SYRIA. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO HAVE EX-
PRESSED TO US THEIR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BEING ABLE TO BRING
EVERYONE TO GENEVA. BOTH THE POLISH JOURNALISTS AND THE
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE
EFFECT OF THE END OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST MISSION ON
HIS FUTURE AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

DAVIES

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